

# Watauga Democrat.

VOL I

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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT.  
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Edgewater Va.  
Oct. 29th. '88.

TO THE DEMOCRAT:

The DEMOCRAT has not put in its appearance at this office for a fortnight. Have Dockery, Bingham & Co. of the republican army "muzzled" the DEMOCRAT and suppressed its issues. No, indeed! but the cause must be in postal irregularities.

I know too much of the ambition of him who occupies the tripod of the Editorial Sanctum, to believe that anything but success will attend the Editor of the DEMOCRAT in any enterprise in which he may deliberately embark.

From now until the election everything will be on "tip-toe" in the political arena, as the forces are being marshaled for the culmination of the grandest political struggle that has engaged the attention of the American people for several decades.

The fight is for the supremacy of the high tax centralization policy of the republican party, backed by giant corporations in way of trust combinations, land jobbers, millionaire manufacturers, and Wall Street speculators and bond holders against the varied interests of millions of labored, wage-workers, farmers, mechanics and consumers of every name.

It is a contest for the ascendancy of the best principles that underlie the fabric of this great Republic, one which affects American civilization, principles that touch the very essence of civil liberty and independent State Sovereignty, but with such grand leaders at the front of our democratic army as Grover Cleveland and Allen G. Thurman the prospect of success was never more flattering. As the sun shall have set on the 6th. of Nov. proximo, may the swelling and accented echoes and reverberations of victory be heard from every hill top and mountain summit from the Lawrence to the Rio Grande, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, may right and justice have more triumphed, and may this Union of "Inde-

structible States" will be preserved in peace and prosperity another quadrennial term under the bold, dignified, upright administration of Grover Cleveland.

Grayson county is really democratic, and was never known to be classed among the doubtful counties of Va., until that arch traitor, "Billy" Mahone, a man void of every principle of State pride and true patriotism, undertook to elevate himself into public office, and to do so, debased himself in the lowest depths of political degradation by disrupting and misleading the democratic party in Virginia on the public state debt, and by this means put himself into the U. S. Senate, where he fulminated the venom of his traitor's heart upon Virginia, and the Southern people, with such malicious slander and base ingratitude as none but a mercenary Judas could do. But thanks to the chivalry and pride of all true Virginians, Mahone is shorn of his prestige, and his days of "boss" rule is numbered, and with one more State and National victory, "Bill" Mahone will be buried into political oblivion as one as the meanest and most unscrupulous sons that ever dishonored Virginia's fair name.

Viewing the situation in North Carolina from a Virginian stand-point, I feel sanguine that a great victory awaits the retiring efforts of the noble democratic yeomanry in the "Old North State." With such gallant champions as Cleveland, Thurman and Fowle, how could it be otherwise?

Time is now short and precious and every man, every voter, who desires and loves good State and National government should be wide awake, and spare no pains to get out every man to the poll on 6th. of Nov. and aid in every way honorable to achieve a grand victory. I hope to congratulate you on the election of your entire State ticket, and that your gallant and patriotic Col. Cowles will meet, as a genial colleague in the halls of the next Congress, our hand some and Statesman-like Rev. P. G. Lester of the 5th. Virginia District.

Levi P. Morton is very anxious that N. C. cast her vote for the republican party.

Levi wants a good deal of the \$95,000 he subscribed to the republican campaign fund sent into North Carolina for the ostensible purpose of trying to influence the "floaters" of that grand old State with his "boodle" to cast their votes for the republican ticket. He knows full well that with the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the State government filled with republicans, that some chance will be open for him to make good his thirty millions (\$30,000,000) of spurious tax-bonds he holds against the State. Let every man in the "Old North" State arise in his

might, and bury, with an avalanche of votes, in everlasting oblivion; a party, both State and National, that would elevate such men as Chinese Eem. Harrison, Millionaire Morton, and negro-loving Dockery with public office, against the noble desires and instincts of all the better classes of the State.

F. M. Y.

Editor Yates Dead.

We learn with deep regret of the death of Mr. William J. Yates, editor of the Charlotte Democrat, which occurred suddenly on Thursday morning at his home in Charlotte. Not many days ago we had the pleasure of meeting Mr Yates in the office from which these lines go out and he seemed then hale and hearty and the promise then of many more years of life. Indeed the Charlotte Chronicle says: "Throughout the present week, Mr. Yates was daily at his office, performing his usual duties, and never once did he complain of feeling sick. At the close of his office hours, Wednesday afternoon, he met and conversed with several friends on the streets before home for the night. They all noticed that he appeared cheerful and perfectly well."

The articles that he penned Wednesday were read by the Democrat's subscribers Thursday while the brain that inspired them was deadened to earthly things, and while the hand that had driven the pen was cold.

Shocking indeed, was the suddenness with which he was called away and full of the lesson that "In the midst of life we are in death."

"His death," the Chronicle says, "occurred at three o'clock in the morning, and was the result of a stroke of apoplexy, a blood vessel in his brain having burst while he was lying asleep in bed. The stroke was sudden and severe, and without once awaking to the call of those around him, Mr. Yates quietly passed away."

He died in the arms of his wife, and thus went to his final account an honest man an upright citizen and a patriotic citizen of the State.

Mr. Yates was born in Fayetteville in August, 1827, and some years prior to the war became the editor of the Fayetteville North Carolinian. In 1856 he sold this paper and moved to Charlotte, where he purchased the Charlotte Democrat and conducted it continuously until the day of his death.

His leading characteristics were industry, sound judgment and good sense, and these qualities, joined to a love of North Carolina and of his fellow men, made him a citizen of the highest value. He avoided public preferment but nevertheless rendered valuable public service, wielded great influence for good always in his county and in the State at large. He served faithfully as a member of the Council of State during a part of Gov. Ellis' administration in '59 and '60, and

was a useful member of the board of trustees of the State University at Chapel Hill. He was also chairman of the board of directors of the West r. Insane Asylum, and in this position did conspicuous good.

He was a successful journalist and wielded his pen without fear or favor for what he thought the right—unswervingly for the welfare of North Carolina. He was a faithful sentinel upon the watch-tower of popular safety and well-being and never hesitated a moment to sound an alarm that he thought called for by circumstances whatever the result might be to himself. He was a wise and good man and his death is a serious loss to the State. He was a sincere and earnest Christian, a devout member of the Methodist church, and the Durham Tobacco Plant gives this instance of his simple piety:

"His home in Charlotte was one of the way-side resting places of the way-worn preacher. There was a special room in his house he always called the preachers' room. He once said that whenever one of his children got sick he carried it to that room, and laid it on the preachers' bed and knelt down on the very spot where so many men of God has prayed, and begged God to bless his child."

He was, indeed, a man of simple, honest piety. He was honest in all things, and one of the poets has truly said "An honest man's the noblest work of God."—News Observer.

Wheat From Seed 5,000 Years Old.

A most interesting experiment culminated recently in the raising of some wheat grown from wheat as old as the exodus. The experimenter is David Drew, who last year received from a friend in Alexandria, Egypt, some grains of wheat taken from a mummy exhumed near the ruins of Memphis, and believing, it is believed, to the period of the ninth dynasty, which would make it grown about 6,000 years B. C., or nearly 5,000 years old. He planted the seed early in the spring, and carefully nursed it. It grew rapidly and at the time of cutting measured from six and a half to seven feet high. The leaves alternate on the stalk like common wheat, but the product of the plant is the most singular part of it, for, instead of growing in a ear like modern corn, there is a heavy cluster of small twigs in place of the spindle which hangs downwards from its weight, and each twig is thickly studded with kernels, each of which is in a separate husk. From what is threshed a larger crop will be grown next year, as the result proves this to exceed in quality anything modern grain can grow.

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Yours Truly  
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Sept. 27. 1888. 6mo.

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